

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06447 01 OF 02 201316Z

45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 SCS-03

SCA-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SAM-01 SCCT-01 IO-13 DHA-02

SY-05 SAB-01 AID-05 PER-01 /113 W

----- 075185

O P 201204Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1236

INFO SITREP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 21

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6447

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06447 01 OF 02 201316Z

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 20: CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE IN CENTRAL

MOUNTAINS AS SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS WORSEN AND
CHRISTIAN-LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN CONTACTS INCREASEH

REF: BEIRUT 6413

1. SUMMARY: RIGHTIST OFFENSIVE AT MTAIN AND AINTOURA
GETS ROLLING AS SYRIANS CONSOLIDATE POSITIONS NEAR SOFAR.
NEW PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST AIRPORT UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT
BAADARAN IN COUF AREA. TELL ZAATAR FIGHTING CONTINUES
BUT TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE MAY BE ARRANGED JULY 21 TO
EVACUATE WOUNDED AND PRISONERS. ARMENIAN ROLE AT NAABA
UNCLEAR. CONFLICT AREAS IN NORTH AND SOUTH OF COUNTRY
RELATIVELY QUIET. UNCERTAINTY AS TO POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN
DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS AS KEY PALESTINIANS REFUSE TO
APPEAR TO BEND TO RENEWED SYRIAN DEMANDS. AS SYRIAN-
PALESTINIAN RAPPROCHEMENT SEEMS LESS AND LESS
LIKELY, HOPES FOR RENEWED LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOGUE
RAISED BY KATAEB VISITS TO PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS AND
AGREEMENTS REPORTED ON PROVISIONS FOR CIVIL
POPULATION AND TRANSIT OF CONFRONTATION LINE. US-
SPONSORED CONVOY TO DAMASCUS JULY 20 POSTPONED DUE
TO LACK OF SECURITY GUARANTEES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONCERTED RIGHTIST OFFENSIVE ON PALESTINIAN
POSITIONS AT MTEIN AND AINTOURA BEGAN LATE JULY 19.
KATAEB RADIO SAYS OBJECTIVES ARE TAKE REMAINING
PALESTINIAN POSITIONS ON MT. LEBANON AND "REESTABLISH
CALM AND SECURITY." SYRIANS INVOLVED IN GROUND ACTION
AND CONSOLIDATION OF POSITIONS IN SOFAR AREA TO
SOUTHEAST. SYRIAN ACTION EFFECTIVELY CUTTING PALESTINIAN/
LEFTIST SUPPLY ROUTE INTO METN. ALEY/KAHALE FRONT,
DOMINATING ANOTHER METN SUPPLY ROAD, ALSO SCENE VIOLENT
CLASHES JULY 19. IN THE HIGH METN THERE HAVE BEEN
CLASHES AT ZAAROUR, BCHELAMA, SANNINE, BOIS DE BOULOGNE
AND MROUJE. HEAVY ARTILLERY DUELS OPPOSE KORNAYEL/
SALIMA TO BAABDA, BEIRT MERI AND ROUMMANA. PRESS
REPORTS CONTINUED PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY
AIRPORT UNDER PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST AUSPICES AT CHOUF
AREA VILLAGE OF BAADARAN WITH 900 METER RUNWAY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06447 01 OF 02 201316Z

3. FIGHTING CONTINUES AT TELL ZAATAR WHERE RIGHTISTS
CLAIM 200 MORE PALESTINIANS SURRENDERED ON JULY 19.
AMIN GEMAYAL SAID AGREEABLE TO PROPOSAL BY MUSA SADR
AND GRAND MUFTI FOR CEASEFIRE ALLOWING TRANSPORT OF
WOUNDED AND PRISONERS FROM TELL ZAATAR TO WEST BEIRUT
ON JULY 21. SURROUND AREAS OF SIN EL-FIL, HORCH-
TABEL, SALOME AND MAR ELIAS REMAIN EMBROILED.
MANSOURIEH AND BOURJ HAMMOUD HIT BY MORTARS JULY 19.

HADETH/LEYLAKE AND KFARCHIMA/SAHRAT CHOUEIFAT CONTINUE MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS. TANK BATTLE REPORTED FROM CHIAH/ AIN EL-RUMMANEH AND "SUICIDE OPERATIONS" FROM SURROUNDING AREAS OF MRAYE AND MADI. VIOLENT CLASHES CONTINUE IN CENTRAL BEIRUT. WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORT THAT CHRISTIANS OFFERED DEAL AT NAABA ENCLAVE WHEREBY "LONG TERM" SHIITE AND PALESTINIAN RESIDENTS WOULD TURN THEMSELVES OVER TO PROTECTION OF ARMENIANS AND "NEWCOMERS" (LEBANESE LEFTISTS, PFLP ELEMENTS) WOULD SURRENDER TO CHRISTIANS. DEAL WAS REFUSED. PFLP/GC CONTINUES CLAIM SOME ARMENIANS ACTIVELY SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS AROUND NAABA.

4. SOUTH LEBANON IS GENERALLY QUIET, BUT SYRIANS SAID BY PRESS BEEFING UP JEZZINE POSITIONS IN RESPONSE APPEAL OF CHRISTIAN VILLAGERS. THERE IS EVIDENCE PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS HARASSING CHRISTIAN VILLAGES IN AREA BETWEEN SIDON AND JEZZINE FROM WHICH SYRIANS HAVE WITHDRAWN.

5. NORTHERN FRONT MAINLY STATIC THOUGH LIMITED FIGHTING REPORTED NEAR BAHSAS AT SOUTHERN ENTRY TO TRIPOLI. SYRIAN BLOCKADE AND PERIODIC BOMBARDMENT OF NAHR EL-BARED CAMP CONTINUE.

6. REPORTS CONFLICT ON POSSIBILITY PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO SYRIA. HIGH LEVEL PALESTINIANS MET JULY 19 AT HOME KAMAL JUNBLATT AND APPARENTLY DECIDED SEND ENVOY TO DAMASCUS WITH POWERS TO "LISTEN AND TRANSMIT," BUT SEVERAL KEY PALESTINIANS SAID REFUSING MAKE DAMASCUS PILGRIMAGE. PRESS SAYS SYRIA HAS GIVEN LIBYAN PERMIER JALLOUD THREE CONDITIONS FOR SYRIAN RETREAT FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND SO FAR: 1) VISIT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 06447 01 OF 02 201316Z

OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WITHOUT PRIOR DECISIONS ON SYRIAN RETREAT; 2) HALT TO PALESTINIAN DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST DAMASCUS AND ITS "LEBANESE ALLIES;" AND 3) PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT IMPLEMENT CAIRO ACCORDS OF 1969 BUT UNDER SYRIAN CONTROL. CONDITIONS, IF TRUE, ARE PROBABLY UNACCEPTABLE TO PALESTINIANS. RADIO AMCHIT CLAIMS SYRIA HAS NO INTENTION RECEIVE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WHILE PALESTINIANS REMAIN ACTIVE IN LEBANESE MOUNTAINS. L'OREINT SAYS SYRIANS ALSO DEMANDING REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PLO LEADRS.

7. DESPITE GROUND DEVELOPMENTS, LEBANESE POLITICAL CIRCLES OPTIMISTIC. PRESS CITES THREE REASONS: 1) ARAFAT/ KATAEB DELEGATION DIALOGUE JULY 19 (SEE PARA 9),

2) PALESTINIAN DECISION AT LEAST SEND LOW-LEVEL
DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS, AND 3) STATEMENT BY KAMAL
JUNBLATT THAT HE AGREES WITH PIERRE GEMAYEL ON NEED
FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND TO

"RISE ABOVE
PRIVATE GRUDGES." OTHER POLITICAL MANEUVERS INCLUDE
RACID KARAME PRIVATE STATEMENT HE HOPEFUL OPEN
ANOTHER MOSLEM/CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE IN VIEW FAILURE
PALESTINIAN/SYRIAN DIALOUGE ATTEMPTS. LEFTIST PRESS
SAYS KARAME WILL TRANSMIT NEW SYRIAN PROPOSALS BROUGHT
BY IMAM MUSA SADR TO PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS AND SYRIANS
THEMSELVES WILL PRESENT SAME PROPOSALS TO CHRISTIAN
SIDE. KARAME HOPES PROPOSE OPENING OF SEVERAL ACCESS
ROUTES WANTED BY WARRING SIDES IN BEIRUT AREA (SEE
BEIRUT 6420). BECHIR GEMAYEL EXPECTED MEET BOTH
ARAFAT AND JUNBLATT JULY 20.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06447 02 OF 02 201319Z

45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 SCS-03

SCA-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SAM-01 SCCT-01 IO-13 DHA-02

SY-05 SAB-01 AID-05 PER-01 /113 W

----- 075200

O P 201204Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1237

INFO SITREP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 22

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

RUFRMAHXCOMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
47CBSAA/FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6447

STUTTGART FOR ELG

8.PROJECTED JULY 20 BEIRUT/DAMASCUS EVACUATION CONVOY
FOR WHICH SOME 400 AMCITS AND OTHER NATIONALITIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06447 02 OF 02 201319Z

REGISTERED POSTPONED LATE JULY 19, DUE PLO INDICATION
IT UNABLE GUARANTEE SECURITY VIA SOUTH LEBANON ROUTE.
CONVOY NOT RESCHEDULED BY EMBASSY HOLDING VEHICLES IN
HOPES GETTING SHOW ON ROAD WITHIN FEW DAYS.

9. USUAL TALK OF IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS IN WEST
BEIRUT CONTINUES9 YASIR ARAFAT AND KATAEB MEMBER
ALEXANDRE GEMAYEL (NEPHEW OF PIERRE) HELD THREE HOUR

DISCUSSION AT SABRA ON COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND
WEST BEIRUT, FUEL AND ELECTRICITY AND SECURITY.
POPULAR SECURITY FORCES SAID TO HAVE BEGUN DUTIES
JULY 19, CONTROLLING TRAFFIC AND ENFORCING PRICE
CONTROLS IN VARIOUS QUARTERS WEST BEIRUT. SUPPLIES,
IN PARTICULAR FRESH FOODS, FLOUR AND SUGAR REMAIN
SCARCE. SMALL AMOUNT AVAILABLE ELECTRICITY ROTATED
TO PUMP WATER. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ELECTRICITY
BIZRI SAYS FUEL OIL FROM RUMAPIA INTENDED FOR ZOUK
THERMAL POWER PLANT DUE THIS WEEK. ARAFAT AND
ALEXANDER GEMAYEL REPORTED AGREED TO PERMIT GREEK
COASTAL TANKER DELIVER 300 TONS PER DAY OF FUEL OIL
FROM SIDON TO ZOUK PLANT. ZOUL CAPABLE PROVIDING
35 PERCENT BEIRUT' ELECTRICITY NEEDS. WORK CONTINUES
ON HIGH TENSION LINES VIA JAMHOUR AND KOMATIYE TO
INSURE SERVICE IF ZOUK PLANT BECOMES OPERATIVE.
LEBANESE ARAB ARMY ELEMENTS IN WEST BEIRUT APPEAR
INCREASINGLY DISAFFECTED WITH PALESTINIAN ALLIANCE.
NOON JULY 20 RIGHTIST RADIO REPORTS CLASH IN WEST
BEIRUT BETWEEN FATAH AND MURABITOUN AND THAT LATTER
CLAIM CLASH WAS BETWEEN FATAH AND LEBANESE ARAB
ARMY.

SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06447
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760278-1158
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760742/aaaabkqv.tel
Line Count: 278
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 6413
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 20: CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE IN CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AS SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS WORSEN
AND
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006